

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Power of Attorney

We (Customer No. 26021) received the enclosed Notice, mailed on March 31, 2005, advising that the Power of Attorney in this application was revoked by the assignee. This Notice is erroneous, as the applicant has not revoked the power of attorney in this application. On further investigation and review of PAIR records, we discovered that a Revocation of Power was submitted in application no. 09/621,032, but mistakenly applied to this application (10/621,032). A copy of the Revocation in USSN 09/621,032, as obtained from PAIR, is enclosed.

The undersigned left a voice message on May 31, 2005 with Gyzell P. Johnson of the USPTO (571-272-6599), the signee of the erroneous Notice, explaining this PTO error and asking that the appropriate corrective action be taken. In any event, and in view of the above circumstances, the undersigned represents that we (Customer No. 26021) continue to have the Power of Attorney in this application and are authorized by the applicant to submit this response to the outstanding Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed with this Amendment.

Claim Status

Claims 1-18 were presented. Claims 4, 5 and 18-20 are withdrawn from consideration and are canceled, without prejudice. In addition, claims 2 and 6 are canceled, without prejudice, and claims 1, 3 and 7-11 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3 and 7-17 are now pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claims 1-3 and 6-17 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. In particular, the action asserts that the term “ink-like” material is vague and indefinite and refers to a material not present in the final product. In response, this term has been deleted from the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1-3 and 6-17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by applicant's prior art, Figure 16. In response, applicant traverses the rejection and amends claim 1 to clearly distinguish over the prior art, as generally depicted and described by applicant with reference to Figure 16.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a bearing apparatus comprising:

...a thrust dynamic pressure-generating groove which comprises a resin sliding film formed by *transfer printing* of liquid resin material thereon.

This novel and inventive use of transfer printing to form the resin sliding film is described, for example, at paragraphs [0064] to [0070] with reference to Figures 4-7. It is not a feature of the background art, which is described by applicant at paragraphs [0002] to [0013] with reference to Figure 16. In particular, applicant describes various methods used in the past to form the resin sliding film, including immersion (paragraph [0008]), electrodeposition (paragraph [0009]), spray method (paragraph [0010]), painting method (paragraph [0011]) and screen printing (paragraph [0013]). A resin sliding film formed in accordance with any of these methods does not correspond with a resin sliding film formed by *transfer printing* of liquid resin material, as described and claimed by applicant. In particular, applicant notes that the description of screen printing in paragraph [0013] bears no resemblance to the claimed use of transfer printing, which is described and depicted in detail at paragraphs [0064] to [0070] and in Figures 4-7.

Since the cited prior art does not include each and every limitation of claim 1, as amended, it cannot anticipate claim 1 and the rejection under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn. Claim 2 is canceled since it is now substantially incorporated into claim 1. Claims 7, 8 and 12-17 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are thus allowable for the same reasons set forth for claim 1. Claims 3 and 9-11 are

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amended to depend from claim 1, and are similarly allowable. Claim 6 is canceled, without prejudice.

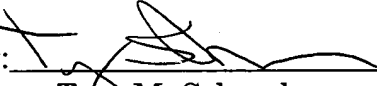
Claims 7, 8 and 10 are also amended to correct minor grammatical errors.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at (213) 337-6700 to discuss any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response, including the fee for submission of the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement, may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: May 31, 2005

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